

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly for food products to be cooked or heated in microwave ovens, which comprises:

an inner wrapper which contains the food product;

an outer package of plastic material which encloses said inner wrapper;

at least one layer of a heat-concentrating material; and

a substrate attached to an outer face of said outer package;

wherein said at least one layer of heat-concentrating material causes the opening of the outer package by melting a portion of the outer package, and a portion of the outer package is melted to permit removal of the inner wrapper from the outer package during heating of the assembly in a microwave oven, and said packaging assembly is used in automatic dispensing machines equipped with said microwave ovens.

2. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a sheet of a heat-insulating material, attached to an inner part of the outer package.

3. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is made up of a continuous web of flexible material, common to a plurality of said products each including said outer package and said inner wrapper.
4. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is made up of a sheet of a size equal to or smaller than that of the outer package.
5. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is made of paper.
6. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the inner wrapper comprises at least one area having two sheets of material, and wherein the layer of heat-concentrating material is inserted between said two sheets of material.
7. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the layer of heat-concentrating material is applied as a coating onto the sheet of insulating material.
8. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said heat-concentrating material is an oxide of aluminum.

9. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package is attached onto the substrate by means of an adhesive.

10. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the sheet of insulating material is attached to the outer package by means of an adhesive.

11. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package is made of polyethylene and the inner wrapper is made of paper.

12. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package presents at least one weld-line of a predetermined strength, wherein said at least one weld-line facilitates the opening of the outer package during heating.

13. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one layer of heat-concentrating material further comprises:

at least one strip of heat-concentrating material.

14. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one strip of heat-concentrating material is applied on said outer package.

15. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly for food products to be cooked or heated in microwave ovens, which comprises:

- an inner wrapper made of paper which contains the food product;
- an outer package of plastic material which encloses said inner wrapper;
- at least one layer of a heat-concentrating material; and
- a substrate attached to an outer face of said outer package;

wherein said at least one layer of heat-concentrating material causes the opening of the outer package by melting a portion of the outer package, and a portion of the outer package is melted to permit removal of the inner wrapper from the outer package during heating of the assembly in a microwave oven, and said packaging assembly is used in automatic dispensing machines equipped with said microwave ovens.